



IAP7 Rec'd PCT/PTO 27 MAR 2006 PCT

Atty. Dkt. No. 039262-0144

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tadahiro OHMI, et al.

Title: METHOD OF CLEANING SUBSTRATE PROCESSING APPARATUS

Appl. No.: 10/555,668

Filing Date: 12/21/2005

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Document A1 is a U.S. counterpart of Document A5.

Document A2 is a U.S. counterpart of Document A8.

Document A3 is a U.S. counterpart of Document A7.

Document A16 is an English language counterpart of Document A6.

The relevance of Documents A7, A8 and A2 is described in the present specification.

Documents A5, A6 and A9-A15. listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 were cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding International application. A copy of the International Search Report is attached setting forth the portion of each document considered relevant by the examiner. An English translation of the foreign-language documents is not readily; however, the absence of such translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider any submitted document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Although Applicant believes that no fee is required for this Request, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Request to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 27, 2006

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MODIFIED PTO/SB/08 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Application Number	10/555,668
Date Submitted: March 27, 2006				Filing Date	12/21/2005
(use as many sheets as necessary)				First Named Inventor	Tadahiro OHMI
				Group Art Unit	Unassigned
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	039262-0144

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

SEARCHED DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
A1	6,925,731	B2		NISHIMURA et al.	08-09-2005	
A2	2004/0065344	A1		OKA et al.	04-08-2004	
A3	2004/0011379	A1		ANAOKAR et al.	01-22-2004	
A4	4,786,352			BENZING	11-22-1988	

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Application Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Filing Date of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Serial Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A5	JP	2003-059915	A	TOKYO ELECTRON LTD.	02-28-2003		A
	A6	JP	2002-355550	A	OMI TADAHIRO	12-10-2002		A
	A7	JP	2002-057149	A	TOKYO ELECTRON LTD.	02-22-2002		A
	A8	JP	2002-057106	A	TOKYO ELECTRON LTD.	02-22-2002		A
	A9	JP	2001-291704	A	TOKYO ELECTRON LTD.	10-19-2001		A
	A10	JP	11-297676		KOKUSAI ELECTRIC CO.	10-29-1999		A
	A11	JP	11-040502		HITACHI LTD.	02-12-1999		A
	A12	JP	9-063793		TOKYO ELECTRON LTD.	03-07-1997		A
	A13	JP	6-314675		TOKYO SHIBAURA	11-08-1994		A
	A14	JP	6-208972		MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC	07-26-1994		A
	A15	EP	0 751 554	A2	VARIAN ASSOCIATES, INC.	01-02-1997		
	A16	EP	0 1 300 878	A1	OMI TADAHIRO	04-09-2003		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials* Cite No.¹ Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. T⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.